

# ST PETERS SCHOOL EXPULSION POLICY

This document is written in accordance with the National Educational Welfare Board's guidelines for developing a Code of Behavior. The Board of Management has the authority to expel a student subsequent to suspension procedures and meetings with parents/guardians. In exceptional circumstances pupils may be expelled for a first offence.

Expulsion may apply in the event of any of the following:

- The pupils' continued presence in the school constitutes a real and significant threat to the safety of the pupil himself/herself or to any other member of the school community including staff or other pupils.
- Violence or physical assault against another pupil or member of staff.
- Repeated occurrence of attempted violence or physical assault against another pupil or member of staff.
- Attempted self-harm resulting in the risk of potentially serious physical injury or actual self-harm resulting in serious physical injury, where the school judges that it can no longer meet the pupils' needs by adequately providing for the pupils' health, safety and well-being when at school.
- The student is responsible for the intentional serious damaging of property.
- The pupil's behavior is a persistent cause of significant disruption to the learning of others or to the teaching process.
- Staff have exhausted all possible behavioral support through the implementation of the Individualised Positive Behaviour Support Plan (IPBSP).

The grounds for expulsion may be similar to the grounds for suspension. In addition to factors such as the degree of seriousness and the persistence of the behaviour, a key difference is that, where expulsion is considered, the school authorities have

tried a series of other interventions including but not limited to; Individualised timetables, reduced school day, input from outside agencies (e.g. NEPS.) Expulsion is only considered when staff have exhausted all other possibilities.

**Procedure in respect of expulsion:**

1. The Principal will inform the Board of Management (BOM), via a written report, of their intention to expel a student and the reasoning behind the decision. This report is presented for discussion. Upon the Board's support of this decision the Parent/Guardian will be informed of the intention to expel. The school will then notify the Education Welfare Officer (EWO). At this point a 20-day period, during which a Section 24 meeting should take place, will begin.
2. The Board will have determined and inform parents if the child in question is suspended until the expiry of the 20 day period. Any information presented to the BOM pertaining to the expulsion will be made available to the Parents/Guardians.
3. The child's parent/guardian is invited to attend a Board of Management meeting to discuss the Principal's recommendation to expel their child and speak to the Board on their behalf.
4. The Board of Management considers if expulsion is appropriate in light of the following factors:
  - The nature, scale and persistence of the behavior in question.
  - The effect of the behavior on the school community, staff and pupils.
  - The previous behavior and conduct of the pupil.
  - Any attempts by the pupil to reform their behavior.
  - Attempts (short of expulsion) made by the principal and staff to divert, correct or check the behavior and the effectiveness of those attempts.
  - The duty of the school to provide an education for its pupils and whether the continued enrolment of the pupils affects or limits the Board's ability to discharge this duty.
  - The duty of care owed by the school to its employees, pupils and visitors to the school and whether the continued enrolment of the pupil affects or limits the Board's ability to meet the duty of care.

5. An Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) who works with TUSLA Educational Support Service (TESS) should invite both the parents and Principal to attend a Section 24 meeting to facilitate any new evidence which the parent may wish to present and discuss the continued education of the child in question. This must be done within 20 days of the parents being informed of the school's intention to expel their child.
6. Based on the foregoing considerations (including any submissions from the parents, new information discussed at the Section 24 meeting and the Principal's report); the Board will meet again to decide if they wish to confirm the expulsion.
7. If the Board of Management confirms its intention to expel the student, it will propose a date on which the expulsion will become effective. The Educational Welfare Officer is again informed of the proposal to expel the pupil and the effective date of that proposal.
8. Parents of the pupils are informed of their rights to invoke a Section 29 appeal under the Education Act 1998.
9. The Education Welfare Officer should arrange consultations with the appropriate parties.
10. Confirmation of the decision of the Board of Management (and if relevant, the effective date of the expulsion) is sent in writing by registered post or a record delivery method to the parents of the pupil.

The formal Letter of notification should be sent by registered post and should include:

- Notice of the expulsion.
- Effective date of the expulsion.
- Reasons for the expulsion.
- A statement that the Education Welfare Board has been informed of the expulsion.
- Information and documentation on Section 29 Appeal rights.

## Appeal of exclusion

Parents/guardians have the right to appeal an expulsion decision of the Board of Management to the Minister for Education or to an authority delegated for such appeals by the Minister under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Permanent expulsion may be appealed by a parent /guardian, by a student (over 18 years), or by the National Education Welfare Board. Any such appeal must be lodged within 42 calendar days of the decision of the Board of Management.

This Policy will be reviewed annually or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this statement refers.

Signed:



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Mr Eoin Ó Donnagáin  
Chairperson  
St Peters School  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Signed:



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Ms Rosemary Fahy  
Principal  
St Peters School  
Date: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025